GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2735
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
JATROPHA SEED
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to make available jatropha seeds to farmers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the assistance provided by the Government for cultivation of jatropha in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(c) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also providing any assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has undertaken model plantations of Jatropha & Karanj in many states including Andhra Pradesh in 10,000 ha., the quality seed from which for further multiplication, will become available only after 4-5 years. With a view to augmenting the availability f quality seedlings of Jatropha and Karanj to farmers, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has also provided financial assistance to 9 states including Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06 for raising Jatropha and Karanj seedlings.

(b): National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board has provided an assistance of Rs.22.81 crores to various research institutions, State Agricultural Universities and State Departments for promotion of tree borne oilseeds including Jatropha in the country during 2004 to 2006 under the scheme `Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds`. This includes 75.00 lakhs to International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Andhra Pradesh.
(c) & (d): National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to all the eligible financial institutions for financing Jatropha cultivation. Besides, NABARD has prepared and circulated Model Bankable Project on Jatropha with three different types of planting material for guidance to the financial institutions. NABARD is also encouraging projects involving activities related to cultivation and processing of Jatropha for bio-diesel purposes.

NABARD has sanctioned a Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) loan of Rs.30.52 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for raising Jatropha & Karanj plantations in 15,000 ha of degraded forest lands covering 15 districts.